

My Dear Mother  
I have been thinking of you very much lately and wondering how you are getting along. I hope you are well and happy. I am feeling better now than I was some time ago. I have been taking a great deal of exercise and it has done me good. I am also taking a little medicine which the doctor has prescribed for me. I hope it will do me good. I am writing you this letter to let you know how I am getting along. I hope you will write back soon. I love you very much.  
Your affectionate son,  
John Smith

Sep. 16, 1862



They are good cooks saving. I must stop  
for a while I have got to see to some guns.  
Good evening. We have got done @dilling & been  
to supper I have eaten as much as well  
James did of Porrayes we had Bread & Butter  
Potatoes Meat-Tomatoes Molasses Tea &c. I have  
one of the appetites. I tell you I feel first-rate  
I tell you. Lt Robinson has gone Home he  
got news of the death of his wife so he start-  
ed for Home yesterday Morning. he is  
to be gone twenty days some of us think he  
may not ever come back a great many  
say that they hope he will not I have nothing  
to say for my part. The Mail has just  
come in but no Letters for me I rather looked  
for one but I must learn to take things as  
they come I suppose but still I would like  
to have heard from you but I will wait with  
Patience you know her I presume. you must  
write me & let me know where Mother is so  
I can write her. I guess I will write her at  
Boston anyway. I saw Trunilla yesterday  
Morning he was moving out into the country  
after his ~~From~~ Regiment he was with his regi-  
ment Train. We are about 12 Miles from  
Washington on the Road to Frederic I presume  
we wont move any farther forward but will  
countermarch back to Washington but



We cant tell I presume you get  
news of affairs before we do. I will have  
to stop for Paul call in a few minutes  
I presume you have heard of the result  
of the last Battle we have been success-  
ful very at Harpers Ferry they gave the  
Rebs perfect fits I tell you we got General  
Lee at the ferry. (I say we I mean the Federal  
army) this morning the Report was that we had  
Stonewell Jackson in between two mountains  
& gave him until to night for surrender I am  
afraid he will back out and get away in  
some quarter but truly not I hope not I tell you  
there has been a report that we would  
have to go and bury the Dead of the last  
Battle but I guess not and I certainly hope  
not I tell you we teach it a drilling  
now we have Battalion Drills that is as  
you saw us move on Deep Road at Jackson  
all together it is pretty nice Movements I tell  
you we go through the Manuevering of fire-  
ing & Loading Retracting Rallying coming  
into line charging the Infantry and Cavalry  
and being attacked by the same storming  
parts & being Stormed it is pretty nice  
these different Manuevers we do most of  
them very well the Colonel says for  
New Recruits it is rather tiresome



I dont know how long it will be before  
I will write to any of the rest of the  
fellas around there but I will as much  
as I can tell them but you must tell  
the folks what you are aiming to what I  
I write to you most of the Boys and in  
fact I guess all of them have written home  
and some of them two or three times. I want  
you to write me and let me know how Drafty  
gets along and how much wheat we have and  
Barley also and how much wheat the folks are  
getting in and getting along with it how are  
things in general how is Ned & Dave. how is  
Dick does he get over his lameness any & is he getting  
up in good condition has William saved any  
wood with my machine has he drawn any wood  
for me or father Father is he going to take my  
coat & pants & how much is he going to give  
for them. I presume you have heard of my  
being in Oshers camp before now by his writing  
& Nicks writing. I dont know as I ever asked you  
how long you got home from Detroit neither how  
long you stayed there. I saw Uncle Alas Horse in  
Washington the last time I was there & the Postoffice  
I was in there it is a splendid affair I think  
but still the House dont look like a House but  
more like a castle than anything else I can  
compare it to. I have just got in from Red all  
good news first got bad news the top of warpers  
Ferry we have just sent out a packet with news  
from our camp. I hope tomorrow we will hear



Sept. 16, 1862. In camp, about 12 miles from Wash.  
Andrew Fair is sick. Jim Hawkins has a que-  
sient. Rawlinson went home and wife's death.  
Expects to write his mother at Boston. Heard  
that Federal army was successful at Harper's Ferry  
& that Stonewall Jackson is trapped between two  
mountains. Expects to have to bury dead.



